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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SETS HIGHER BAR FOR AIR QUALITY

W.H.O. on Wednesday issued its first air quality guidelines since 2005 aimed at reducing deaths from key pollutants

ADVISED LEVELS OF POLLUTANTS REVISED

In the revised guidelines, the United Nations health agency slashed the recommended maximum levels of several pollutants, including particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide. WHO halved the recommended limit for average annual PM2.5 level from 10 micrograms per cubic metre to 5. It also lowered the advised limit for PM10 from 20 micrograms to 15 | P18

AIR POLLUTION BIGGEST HEALTH RISK

- Exposure to air pollution is estimated to cause 7 mn premature deaths and affect the health of millions more people each year
- According to the WHO, air pollution is now comparable to other global health risks such as unhealthy diet and tobacco smoking
- Reducing exposure to particulate matter is the priority, WHO said

90%
OF WORLD POPULATION ALREADY LIVES IN AREAS WITH HARMFUL POLLUTANTS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

PM weighs in on vax certification at summit

Modi says nations must recognise certificates for ease of travel; UK okay with Covishield, not India's certificate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

A day after India threatened reciprocal measures on its discriminatory policy on vaccination, the UK on Wednesday included Covishield in its list of approved vaccines. However, Indian travellers will still have to undergo quarantine upon arrival as the British government is yet to recognise the vaccination certificate citing technical issues.

Later in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi alluded to the hassle and stressed the need for nations to mutually recognise vaccination certificates for ease of travel. "We need to focus on addressing the pandemic's economic effects. To end the adverse effects on the economy, international travel should be made easier by mutually recognising vaccine certificates," the prime minister said in his address at the virtual Global Covid Summit on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

According to the UK government's amended guidelines, "Formulations of the four listed vaccines, such as AstraZeneca Covishield, AstraZeneca Vaxzevria and Modern Takeda, qualify as approved vaccines." From 4 am on October 4, those who have taken vaccines from a relevant public health body and are from a specific list of countries, will be considered fully vaccinated. India does not figure on that list.

"We're clear Covishield is not a problem. The UK is open to travel and we're already seeing a lot of people going from India to the UK, be it tourists, business people or students," said Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India. "We have been having detailed technical discussions regarding certification, with the builders of the CoWIN app and the NHS app, about both apps" he added.

At the virtual summit, Modi said India has managed to administer 800 million vaccine doses so far and the production of vaccines is also being ramped up. "As our production increases, we will be able to resume vaccine supplies to others too. For this, the supply chains of raw materials must be kept open."

US President Joe Biden announced that his country will double its purchase of Pfizer's shots to share with the world up to 1 billion doses, with the goal of vaccinating 70% of the global population by next year.

NATIONWIDE	SEPT 21	SEPT 22
Fresh cases	26,115	26,964
Recoveries	34,669	34,167
Deaths	252	383

KARNATAKA	SEPT 21	SEPT 22
Fresh cases	818	847
Recoveries	1,474	946
Deaths	21	20

₹50,000 EX-GRATIA

NDMA has recommended that ₹50,000 be given to the kin of those who died of Covid-19, the Centre informed the Supreme Court on Wednesday | P7

SC pushes govt to let women write NDA exams this yr

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected the Centre's request to defer the induction of women into the National Defence Academy (NDA) till next year, directing the defence ministry to do the needful so that female candidates can write the upcoming NDA entrance exams in November.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati told the bench that the military establishment would need some time to induct women into NDA. She said a study group is looking into the infrastructure and course requirements for women cadets and that a system will be put in place by May 2022.

However, a bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said the admission of women cannot be postponed as it will mean losing a year. "What answer would we have for the students who are on the anvil of taking the exam? Don't ask us to effectively vacate the order. You go on with the exercise. Let us see the result and see how many women get in," it said.

CAPT's SWIPE

RAHUL, PRIYANKA MISGUIDED

Days after resigning as Punjab CM, Amarinder Singh says the Gandhi siblings forced his hand and that they were inexperienced and misguided | P9

A 4-PAGE MARKETING SUPPLEMENT WITH THIS ISSUE

Mysterious fever among kids, but don't panic, say doctors

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

DOCTORS in Karnataka are seeing an increasing number of viral fever cases in children showing symptoms of Covid and Dengue but testing negative, raising doubts whether this is a result of mutations in the viruses. Though this new virus or viruses have been showing prolonged illness than the usual seasonal viruses, doctors stressed that there is no reason to panic, and children should not be subjected to unnecessary tests unless the symptoms are unusual.

Doctors are seeing children, especially in the age group of zero to five years, presenting symptoms of high-grade fever, fatigue, cough, cold and vomiting, but are testing negative even for some seasonal infections, like respiratory syncytial virus, H1N1 or chikungunya.

Dr Niranjan Patil, Associate Vice-President, Scientific Business Head – Infectious diseases, Metropolis Healthcare Ltd, said if a typical symptom like fever is persisting for more than three days or the timing is differing, or children from a particular area are showing similar symptoms, then there has to be a syndromic approach (depending on particular symptoms presented in the specific condition of illness). P5

5 held for fining Dalit family after child enters temple

SHREEPADA AYACHIT @Koppal

FIVE persons were arrested at Miyapur village in Kushtagi taluk of Koppal district on Wednesday for imposing a fine on a Dalit family after their three-year-old boy ran into Maruteshwara temple in the village.

The family had visited the temple on September 4 as it was the boy's birthday. Even as the family was praying outside, the child ran into the temple. Seeing it as a desecration, the temple priest and other upper caste members held a meeting on September 11 and slapped a fine of Rs 25,000 on the family for conducting homas and taking up cleansing rituals at the temple.

The Dalit family is from Channdasar community, while the five arrested are from the upper Ganiga caste, which is a sub-sect of the Lingayat community. As the Dalit family could not pay the fine, they approached the police and also their community leaders. CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

B'luru girl's vegan logo gets official stamp

Bengaluru: A logo designed by Kruti Manish Rathore of Mount Carmel College in Bengaluru has been selected by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to be displayed on all vegan food items. P2

State looking to sell off land on long-term lease

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Government is planning to sell land given on long-term lease as it is not able to earn any revenue from them, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said on Tuesday. P4

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

Inauguration of
AMRITH GRAM PANCHAYAT
Programme

Date: 23.09.2021, Time : 10.00 A.M.
Venue: Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Implementation of
AMRITH
GRAM PANCHAYATH
Scheme in the selected 750 Gram Panchayats

Development of integrated basic amenities

AMRITH GRAM PANCHAYAT

Inauguration of (Virtual) Regional Central Building of Abdul Nazir Saab State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Institute, Kalaburgi
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Inauguration of Amrith Gram Panchayaths Scheme
Sri Giriraj Singh
Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of India

Inauguration of Exhibition of Photographs of Development Projects
Sri K.S. Eshwarappa
Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka

OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME IN THE SELECTED GRAM PANCHAYATS

- Construction of Compound Walls, Playgrounds, Toilet facilities and Drinking Water to Schools/ Anganawadis
- Functional Household Tap connection to each House
- 100% Segregation and Management of Solid Waste
- Scientific Management of Liquid Waste
- Rejuvenation of Lakes and Kalyanis
- Installation of Street Lights and Solar Power in Gram Panchayat buildings
- Development of Parks and Digitization of Libraries

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Sri K. S. Eshwarappa Launched the departmental programme.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Dr. H.S. Prakash Kumar KES, Commissioner, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, Govt. of Karnataka
Shilpa Nag IAS, Director, E - Governance, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Govt. of Karnataka
Anirudh Sravan. P IAS, Commissioner, Rural Development Commissionerate, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Govt. of Karnataka
N. Manjushree IAS, Mission Director, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood
Priyanka Mary Francis IAS, Commissioner, Panchayat Raj Commissionerate Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Govt. of Karnataka
Dr. S. Selvakumar IAS, Secretary to Government Department of Skill Development Entrepreneurship & Livelihood
Uma Mahadevan IAS, Principal Secretary to Government (Panchayat Raj) Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Govt. of Karnataka
L.K. Atheeq IAS, Principal Secretary to Government Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Govt. of Karnataka

To safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the Fundamental Duty of every Indian.